



THE ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR, Tuesday October 11, 2022,

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“Object Agency”, or: How to fill an Amphitheatre with people

ABSTRACT

What does an Amphitheatre “do”? It puts on spectacles, but it does much more than that:

It brings together vast amounts of people, animals, foods, money, and it functions as a site of exchange and transformation of value and information. It provides work for thousands of people. As such, it is both puzzling and disappointing that in contrast to many buildings near the Forum of Roman Corinth, the city’s Amphitheatre has never been properly excavated.

The lecture will take the Amphitheatre as a point of departure and query what information can still be extracted from it: what kinds of material, monetary and cultural exchanges did it facilitate by merely being there? The lecture will argue that if we want to understand the arrival of Christianity at Corinth, the famous (and now re-constructed) Bema on the Forum is not the place to start: rather, the Amphitheatre is the place. An appreciation of the importance of Roman trade routes and of an itinerant lifestyle along those routes are vital. The Amphitheatre joins together the itinerant and local people, the roads to and from the various harbours, and the City of Corinth.

The seminar takes place **Tuesday October 11, 2022, 17.00**

(Athens time) in a hybrid format with live presence at the Swedish Institute at Athens, Mitseon 9, and via link.

To participate (live presence or Zoom link), please register at:

<https://www.sia.gr/en/events.php?eid=300&date=2022-10-11>